



STATE OF MICHIGAN

GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
LANSING

ROBERT GORDON  
DIRECTOR

## Public Health Advisory Council Meeting

*Friday, May 8, 2020*

*10:30 am – 11:30 am*

**Conference Line: 888-398-2342   Access Code: 3574291**

### MINUTES

#### **I. Call to order, introductions – Dr. Joneigh Khaldun**

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 am. The roll was taken, and a quorum of members were present.

#### **II. MDHHS Updates**

##### **a. COVID-19 Response – Dr. Joneigh Khaldun**

Dr. Khaldun provided an update on COVID-19 impacts to MDHHS:

- There are over 43,000 confirmed positives in the state, 4000+ deaths, and Michigan is the third highest state with number of dates in the country.
- MDHHS is actively working on strategies to build testing capacity in order to contain the virus. This included not only looking at COVID-19 specifically but also looking at chronic diseases and other public health challenges
- Michigan hit a surge peak about a month ago and continue to see a plateauing in the number of cases and deaths.
- Governor is slowly working to reopen the state using the [MI Safe Start Plan](#)
- Recently sent a letter to providers about the importance of engaging with patients for both essential and non-essential treatments.

##### **b. Behavioral Health – Dr. Debra Pinals**

- The Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Administration (BHDDA) is looking at the continuum of care for the behavioral health population, using licensed psychiatric hospitals to assist COVID positive patients.
- During the surge of cases, saw a decline of emergency contacts for behavioral health and psychiatric beds being utilized.
- BHDDA is working with community partners for transitions of care, for seamless discharge while keeping the community safe.
- BHDDA has engaged Local Public Health Services, Homelessness Services to coordinate solutions for the behavioral health population with housing instability

**c. Medicaid/Long-Term Care – Kate Massey**

- The Medical Services Administration (MSA) is committed to facilitating access to care and maintaining safety to providers and consumers. The MSA strategy during COVID-19 is focused on promulgating policy and implementing their regional hubs:
- Policy promulgation includes making sure telemedicine is broadly available and allowing telemedicine to occur in a beneficiary's home. This includes telemedicine, teledentistry, occupational therapy, speech therapy and telemedicine in school-based health clinics. Pharmacy policies for early refills have been encouraged and allowing for the delivery of prescription drugs. Additionally, MSA has waived all copayments for testing and COVID-19 related treatments.
- The Regional Hub strategy was developed in response to the hospital surge. Nursing facilities have volunteered or requested to participate by having COVID-19 specific wings for persons under investigation (PUI) or COVID positive patients. These facilities are receiving enhanced reimbursements and are on the prioritized PPE distribution list from MDHHS.

**III. Other Updates – All**

- a. Larry Horvath (LARA) provided an update on the Bureau of Community Health Systems – nearly 50% of their 8000 childcare state licenses have closed. LARA is continuing inspections for adult foster care when there are concerns of infection control or allegation of immediate jeopardy of health, safety and welfare. There has been a strong focus on nursing homes, hospitals and dialysis centers.
- b. There was discussion on communication during the COVID-19 crisis and ensuring information is shared with the partner who need it most. PHAC members are encouraged to use the Community Health Emergency Coordination Center (CHECC) for COVID-19 related inquiries. The email is [checcdeptcoor@michigan.gov](mailto:checcdeptcoor@michigan.gov)

**IV. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 11:25 am.

*Next Meeting:*

*Friday, June 12, 2020*

*10:30 am – 12:30 pm*

May 2020 PHAC Attendance Report

<b>Name/Affiliation</b>	<b>Voting Member</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Present on Phone</b>	<b>Not Present</b>
Cynthia Aaron	X		X	
Annette Mercatante	X		X	
April Hunt	X			
Bill Manns				X
Brian Hartl	X			
Chis Kolb				X
Denise Chrysler	X		X	
Dennis Whitford	X			
Dianne Malburg	X		X	
Emmitt McGowan	X			X
Eric Adelman	X		X	
Eric Oswald	X		X	
James Averill	X		X	
James Baker	X		X	
James Rutherford	X		X	
Jennifer Johnson	X		X	
Kathleen Forzley	X			X
Kristin Schweighoefer	X		X	
Larry Horvath	X		X	
Michelle Styma	X		X	
Rory Lafferty	X		X	
Sandra McGovern	X		X	
Steve Gobbo	X			X
Joneigh Khaldun	X		X	
Ninah Sasy	X			
Jamie Zaniewski			X	
Carl Hammaker/AG			X	
Kate Massey/ DHHS			X	
Debra Pinals/DHHS			X	
Katherine Bennett/ AG				
James Bell/DHHS			X	